

2. As used herein, "Producing Party" means any party to this action and non-parties, who disclose and/or produce any Discovery Material in this action, and their outside counsel of record. As used herein, "Receiving Party" means the party to this action, and its outside counsel of record, who receives Discovery Material from a Producing Party.

3. A Producing Party may designate as confidential any Discovery Material that contains non-public information that the Producing Party believes in good faith belief deserves protection, including, but not limited to sensitive financial, medical, and personal identity information, in accordance with Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In the case of Discovery Material produced by a non-party that is not designated as confidential by that non-party, the Parties shall have 30 days from the receipt of such Discovery Material to designate it as confidential. All Discovery Material so designated shall be referred to in this Protective Order as "Confidential Discovery Material" and shall be handled in strict accordance with the terms of this Protective Order.

4. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, all Confidential Discovery Material in the form of physical objects or documents shall be designated by stamping or affixing, in an unobtrusive manner, the legend "**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER**" or "**CONFIDENTIAL**" on the face of the document and on each page or portion thereof so designated. In the event that confidential discovery material is produced in an electronic medium, such as a CD or DVD, the above legend shall be affixed on the face of the CD, DVD or other electronic medium. Any such designation shall subject the document, its contents, or any portion thereof, to this Protective Order without any further act on the part of the Producing Party.

5. Confidential Discovery Material may be disclosed or made available without written consent from the Producing Party *only* to the following persons:

(a) The parties to this Action whose counsel have executed this Stipulation or who are subject to this Protective Order;

(b) Counsel of record for the respective parties to this litigation who have executed this Stipulation or who are subject to this Protective Order, including attorneys, paraprofessionals, and employees of such law firms;

(c) Stenographers or court reporters who record testimony taken at any time or place in the course of this Action or persons operating video recording equipment during such testimony;

(d) Testifying witnesses, or potential testifying witnesses in preparation for a deposition or trial or in the course of questioning;

(e) Retained or independent testifying or consulting experts;

(f) Employees of third-party contractors involved solely in one or more aspects of organizing, filing, coding, copying, converting, storing, or retrieving data or designing programs for handling data connected with these actions, including the performance of such duties in relation to a computerized litigation support system or graphical presentations;

(g) Mediators or Arbitrators; and

(h) The Court, Court personnel, and any other person designated by the Court in this Action in the interest of justice, upon such terms as the Court may deem proper.

6. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 15 below, Confidential Discovery Material shall be used only for the purposes of the present Action, and may be disclosed only under the circumstances and to the persons specifically provided for in this or subsequent Court Orders, or with the prior written consent of the Producing Party with respect to specifically identified Confidential Discovery Material, or pursuant to a document request, subpoena or court order in

another action during the pendency of this Action provided that the party receiving such document request, court order, or subpoena gives prompt notice to the Producing Party so that they may have an opportunity to seek relief from the document request, order, or subpoena.

7. The inadvertent failure to stamp a document, or a portion thereof, with the “Confidential” designation in no way alters or waives the protected and confidential nature of the document otherwise deserving of such a designation and does not remove it from the scope of this Protective Order, provided that the Producing Party gives such notice in writing. Failure to provide such written notice shall waive any claim of confidentiality. Such written notice shall identify with specificity the information or documents that the Producing Party is then designating to be Confidential Information and shall within thirty (30) days provide a replacement copy of such material with the appropriate designation thereupon.

8. Any party may, on the record of a deposition, or within thirty (30) days after receipt of the transcript(s) of such deposition, designate in good faith any portion or portions of such transcript(s), including exhibits and videotape, as Confidential Discovery Material under the terms of this Protective Order. Until the above-referenced 30-day period expires, the complete deposition transcript and videotape shall be treated as Confidential Discovery Material unless otherwise specified in writing or on the record of the deposition. All copies of deposition transcripts that contain information or material designated as Confidential Discovery Material shall be prominently marked “Confidential” on the cover thereof and on each page that contains Confidential Discovery Material and, if filed with the Court, the portions of such transcripts so designated shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 9 below.

9. If Confidential Discovery Material is to be included in papers filed with or otherwise disclosed to the Court, such papers shall be labeled on the cover:

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION
SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER**

and must be filed as a “restricted document” pursuant to this Court’s Nebraska Civil Rule 5.3. In addition, a redacted version of the document must be filed as an unrestricted document.

10. Confidential Discovery Material may be offered into evidence at trial or at any court hearing in open court. Any party may apply for an order that evidence be received *in camera*, placed under seal, or under other less public circumstances to prevent unnecessary disclosure.

11. Nothing in this Protective Order shall be interpreted to prohibit or prevent the Producing Party from using or discussing his/her Confidential Discovery Material in any way he/she sees fit to so use or discuss that material for any reason. Any such use or discussion of Confidential Discovery Material shall not be deemed a waiver of the terms of this Protective Order.

12. This Protective Order shall not enlarge or affect the proper scope of discovery in this Action, nor shall this Protective Order imply that Discovery Material designated as confidential under the terms of this Protective Order is properly discoverable, relevant or admissible in this Action or in any other litigation. Nothing in this Protective Order shall be interpreted to require disclosure of materials that a party contends are protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege or the attorney work-product doctrine.

13. The following procedures shall apply to any disputes arising from the designation of Discovery Materials as confidential pursuant to this Protective Order:

(a) If a Receiving Party in good faith disagrees with the Producing Party’s confidential designation, that party shall inform counsel of record for the Producing Party in writing of that disagreement;

(b) Upon written notification that a Receiving Party disagrees with a confidential designation, counsel of record for the objecting Receiving Party and counsel of record for the Producing Party will confer in a good faith effort to resolve the dispute without Court intervention;

(c) If the dispute is not resolved within twenty (20) days of counsel of record for Producing Party's receipt of the objecting Receiving Party's written notification, the objecting Receiving Party may invoke the Court rules and procedures for raising discovery disputes. The Producing Party shall bear the burden of proving that information has properly been designated as Confidential Discovery Material; and

(d) During the pendency of such judicial process all parties receiving Confidential Discovery Material shall abide by the designation.

14. Each document, material, or other thing, or portion thereof designated as confidential shall retain that designation and shall remain subject to the terms of this Protective Order until such time as the parties agree to the contrary or the Court renders a decision that a particular document, material, or other thing, or portion thereof is not subject to this Protective Order, and any and all proceedings or interlocutory appeals challenging such decision have been concluded.

15. Except as otherwise agreed in writing by the parties, within forty-five (45) days after final judgment is entered in the above-captioned matter, all Confidential Discovery Material supplied by each Producing Party and all copies thereof shall be destroyed, and each Receiving Party's counsel shall certify to the Producing Party that all such materials have been destroyed, *except that* counsel for defendants subject to this Protective Order may retain one complete and unredacted set of all Confidential Discovery Material solely for reference or use in the event of, and only in the event of, further proceedings or litigation between and among them related to this

Action. This Protective Order shall survive the final termination of this Action with respect to any such Confidential Material.

16. This Protective Order shall become effective among such parties who have executed this agreement immediately upon such execution, whether or not it has yet been approved by the Court.

17. Any party may apply to this Court, upon written notice, in accordance with the Rules of this Court, for an Order amending, modifying or vacating this Protective Order. Nothing in this Protective Order shall be construed as prejudicing any party's right to seek an agreement or Court Order providing additional confidentiality or other protections to any Confidential Discovery Material produced in this Action. Until such agreement or order is obtained, however, this Protective Order shall constitute the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the matters covered herein.


18. This stipulation may be signed electronically.

DATED: February 5, 2008

SO ORDERED,

Dated February 15th, 2008

BY THE COURT



David L. Piester
United States Magistrate Judge

/s/ Lemuel M. Srolovic

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